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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 MCT-01 AF-10
IO-13 HA-05 ARA-10 /129 W
----------073211 101538Z /45
R 101421Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5312
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 SANA 3380

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, YE
SUBJ: YAR PURSUES DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN AGAINST PDRY

SUMMARY: YAR FOREIGN MINISTER ASNAJ, IN SCORCHING DENOUNCIATION OF PDRY, CHARGES ADEN REGIME WITH NEW PROVOCATIONS OF YAR AND INVITES ARAB LEAGUE TO SEND MILITARY TEAM TO DETERMINE WHICH COUNTRY -- NORTH OR SOUTH YEMEN -- IS MASSING FORCES FOR AN ATTACK. END SUMMARY.

1. YAR FOREIGN MINISTER ASNAJ CONVENED ENTIRE DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN FOREIGN MINISTRY TO HEAR HIM DELIVER HOUR-LONG TIRADE AGAINST PDRY.

2. ASNAJ THREW THE BOOK AT ADEN REGIME, ACCUSING IT OF SUBVERSION,
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AID TO TERRORISTS LIKE CARLOS, SHAMEFUL DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES, COOPERATION WITH STRATEGIES OF IMPERIALISM IN MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA, CRIMINAL DISREGARD FOR ITS PEOPLE'S WELFARE, RESPONSIBILITY FOR ASSASSINATIONS OF YEMENI LEADERS GHASHMI AND HARJRI, SUPPRESSION OF ISLAM AND VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND LONG, LONG LIST OF OTHER TRANGRESSIONS. (IT WAS ALL IN GREAT DETAIL

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AND RAPID ARABIC WHICH RAN BACK AND FORTH FROM HIGHLY
CLASSICAL TO HIGHLY COLLOQUILA. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO SECURE
VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT AND LQ:# TO DEPARTMENT.)

3. EARLY ON, SPEAKING WITH EVIDENT ANGER BUT WITH GREAT
PRECISION, ASNAJ READ ANNOUNCEMENT BY YAR CHIEF OF STATE
TO EFFECT THAT AIR SPACE AND TERRITORIAL WATERS OF YAR WERE
BEING VIOLATED BY RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT FROM SOUTH AND SIX
SHIPS "FLYING SOUTH YEMENI COLORS BUT PROBABLY NOT SOUTH
YEMENI." ASNAJ SAID THESE WERE NEW ATTEMPTS TO PROVOKE AND
SURVEIL NORTH YEMEN.

4. HE CONTEMPTUOUSLY DENOUNCED SOUTH YEMEN CHARGES THAT YAR
WAS MASSING TROOPS FOR ATTACH ANDFORMALLY INVITED ARAB LEAGUE
TO SEND MILITARY DELEGATION TO INSPECT BOTH SIDES OF BORDERS
TO SEE "WHO WAS MASSING TROOPS, WHO IS SPONSORING INFILTRATION
AND SABOTAGE AND WHO HAS CUBAN EXPERTS."

5. REVIEWING AND DEFENDING ARAB LEAGUE DECISIONS AGAINST SOUTH
YEMEN, HE ANNOUNCED THAT YAR WOULD HAVE "NO DIALOGUE WHATSOEVER
WITH PDRY UNTIL ADEN SURRENDERS THOSE AT PINNACLE OF POWER WHO
KILLED YAR PRESIDENT GHASHMI."

6. ASNAJ STRONGLY CRITICIZED STATES WHICH DID NOT SUPPORT
ARAB LEAGUE DECISION AND MADE DURING COURSE OF HOUR LARGE
NUMBER OF THINLY VEILED REFERENCES TO SOVIET UNION. IMPLICIT
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IN HIS SARCASTIC REFERENCES TO "THOSE BEHIND PDRY" WAS
THAT THESE STATES SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR PDRY WRONGDOING
OF ALL SORTS. HE ALSO DENOUNCED "GREAT POWERS WHOSE PLANES
CROSSED OUR AIR SPACE EN ROUTE TO ADEN BRINGING NOT DOCTORS
AND FIRST AID BUT FOREIGN TROOPS TO SHORE UP THE REGIME."
GLARING AT THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR -- WHO GLARED RIGHT BACK --
ASNAJ NOTED WITH CONTEMPT THAT THESE STATES HAD GONE SO FAR
AS TO DENY THEY HAD PARTICIPATED IN FIGHTING AND SUPPLYING OF
PDRY. HE FURTHER CALLED FOR AN END TO "GREAT POWER STATEMENTS
WHICH INCREASED TENSION AND PROBLEM." THESE SEEMED AIMED AT
GROWLED WARNINGS AND PROMISES OF MILITARY SUPPORT BY BREZHNEV
FOR PDRY.

7. IN FURTHER ELABORATION WHICH COULD BE READ AS AIMED AT
THE UNITED STATES, ASNAJ SAID YAR WAS NOT MERELY LOOKING FOR
STATEMENTS OF SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT BUT PRACTICAL HELP IN
MAINTAINING ITS DEFENSES.

8. ASNAJ INSISTED AT SEVERAL POINTS IN HIS PRESENTATION THAT
YEMEN "HAD NO INTERESTS BUT TO DEFEND ITSELF" AND HAD
NOT ATTACKED SOUTH YEMEN EVEN THOUGH SOUTH YEMEN HAD "COMMITTED
AGGRESSION AND CRIME AGAINST YAR." HE REPEATEDLY CITED GUERILLA

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WARFARE IN CENTRAL PROVINCES OF YAR. HE SAID YAR WOULD RESPOND
IN KIND IF FORCED TO DO SO AND WOULD IN ANY CASE EXPOSE
SOUTH YEMEN AND CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN INTERNATIONAL FORA
LIKE U.N., N.A.M., OAU, THE ARAB LEAGUE AND MUSLIM
ORGANIZATIONS. ASNAJ SAID NO ONE SHOULD DOUBT YAR ABILITY
TO REPLY TO SABOTAGE WITH SABOTAGE. REFERRING TO ASSASSIN
OF GHASHMI WHO, HE SAID, WAS TRAINED ABROAD IN A "FRIENDLY
COUNTRY" -- YEMENIS ARE SAYING HE WAS TRAINED IN SOVIET
UNION -- ASNAJ SAID "WE NEED NOT RESORT TO FOREIGNERS.

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AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 SANA 3380

IF THEY SEND A THOUSAND LIKE THIS KILLER, WE WILL SEND FIVE
THOUSAND OF OUR OWN CITIZENS BACK TO THEM. THEY WILL
FIGHT FOR THEIR RIGHTS, THEIR PROPERTY, THEIR OWN CONTROL
OF THEIR OWN DESTINY."

9. ASNAJ INSISTED THE AIM OF ALL STATES MUST BE TO "RESTORE
PDRYPDRY TO ITS ARAB AND MUSLIM CHARACTER." WE HAVE THE RIGHT
TO PROVIDE "ALL FACILITIES" TO THIS EFFORT, SAID ASNAJ.

10. ASNAJ RESERVED HIS MOST OPEN AND CAUSTIC ATTACK FOR THE
PLO. NOTING LONG YEMENI SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN CAUSE
AND ORGANIZATION. HE SCATHINGLY ATTACKED STATEMENTS BY ABD IYAD

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AND ABD RUBUH IN SUPPORT OF SOUTH YEMEN. HE SAID YAR POLICY
TOWARD PLO COULD NOT BE BASED ON CONTRADICTIONS. "IF PLO
ATTACKED YAR, YAR WOULD REPLY IN KIND," HE SAID.
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11. COMMENT: HOUR-LONG PRESENTATION WAS MASTERFUL THEATER.
ASNAJ IS IMMENSELY ARTICULATE AND SKILLFUL ARAB DIPLOMAT
WHOSE MANNER CHANGED MERCURIALLY FROM WHEEDLING TO RAGE.
READERS SHOULD NOTE THAT IN THIS PERIOD OF ASSASSINATIONS
IN YEMENS AND WIDESPREAD KILLING IN SOUTH YEMEN, ASNAJ'S
COURAGE IN MAKING THIS EXTRAORDINARY PRESENTATION IS
EQUAL TO HIS SKILL. HE IS CLEARLY INTENT ON MAINTAINING
AND EXPANDING POLITICAL MOMENTUM OF ARAB LEAGUE DECISION
AGAINST PDRY, WHICH HAS BEGUN COUNTER-ATTACK IN ARAB
AND INTERNATIONAL CIRCLES. HE IS CLEARLY WORKING VERY
CLOSELY WITH SAUDIS, AND ATTACKS OF PDRY AND USSR
MARK DEEP CHANGE IN YAR POLITICS. NEVERTHELESS, I INTERPRET
HIS REMARKS TO MEAN THAT HE HOPES TO ENCOURAGE WHATEVER
DISSIDENCE AND DISCONTENT MIGHT OCCUR INSIDE PDRY AND IN ITS
RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN STATES BUT IS DISAVOWING MILITARY
INTERVENTION AGAINST SOUTH AS A YAR OPTION. THIS IS OF
COURSE DIRECTLY IN LINE WITH OUR DESIRES AND INTERESTS.
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